



TENNESSEE
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

P.O. Box 41505
Nashville, TN 37204-1505
1-800-626-0987
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>

cooperating with
Tennessee
Department
of Agriculture



FARM FACTS

DEBRA K. KENERSON
STATE STATISTICIAN

RELEASED: AUGUST 21, 2001 VOL. 01 NO. 16

IN THIS ISSUE

August 2001 Crop Report	1, 2
2000 Nursery Production	3
July 2001 Prices Received	4
Internet Access on U.S. Farms	4

Expectations High For Tennessee Crops

Based on the results of a August 1 Yield Survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, overall crop prospects are above average for the 2001 season. This is the first yield forecast for 2001 spring planted crops and producers are optimistic about crop prospects. Row crop planting was completed on schedule this spring and timely rainfall this summer has crops and pastures in mostly good condition. The August forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month showed the following: **Cotton**, 643 pounds per acre, up 40 pounds from last year; **Corn**, 122 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels from last year and only 2 bushels below the record set in 1992; **Soybeans**, 32 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from last year; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,950 pounds per acre, 30 pounds more than last year.

Cotton Shows Good Yield Potential

Cotton production is forecast at 810,000 bales, up 14 percent from 2000 and the highest production since 1994. Yield is expected to average 643 pounds per acre, up 40 pounds from a year ago. Producers expect to harvest 605,000 acres, 7 percent above last year. Planting of the 2001 cotton crops was completed in record time by the third week of May, nearly two weeks ahead of normal. The crop was setting bolls at a pace ahead of the five-year average and was rated in good-to-excellent condition at the beginning of the month. However, pockets of the cotton growing region, particularly Haywood and Crockett counties, had not received adequate rainfall and dry conditions have hampered development.

Corn Yields Second Highest on Record

Corn production is forecast at 69.5 million bushels, up 3 percent from last year and the highest production since 1996. Yields are expected to average 122 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels from last year. If realized, this yield would be second only to the 124 bushel record in 1992. Area for grain is estimated at 570,000 acres, down 3 percent from 2000. The State's corn crop is progressing at a pace ahead of last year and the five-year average. Seventy percent of the crop had reached the dough stage and a few fields had begun to dent by the last week of July. Eighty percent of the crop was rated good-to-excellent during our survey.

Soybean Production up Sharply

Soybean production is forecast at 33.6 million bushels, up 17 percent from 2000 and up almost 50 percent from 1999. Yields are expected to average 32 bushels per acre, up 7 bushels from 2000. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.05 million acres, down 9 percent from a year ago. It was an exceptional year for planting soybeans in Tennessee. By the first of June, planting progress was two weeks ahead of normal. The soybean crop was blooming and setting pods at a pace over a week ahead of the five-year average by the first week of August. Rainfall around the first of the month has been beneficial to the soybean crop as nearly three-fourth's of the acreage was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

Tobacco Production Down 11 Percent

Tobacco production for 2001 is forecast at 85.8 million pounds, down 11 percent from 2000. If realized, this will be the lowest production since 1989 when only 79.8 million pounds were produced. Tobacco harvest began around the first of August. Middle Tennessee is expecting a tremendous burley crop, while the East Tennessee crop flowered a little too early due to dry conditions and has had too much moisture. There are a few problems with black shank and blue mold has been visible. Yields should be slightly better for burley and the dark types will approach last year's record. Burley yields are forecast at 1,950 pounds, 30 pounds more than last year. Burley production, is expected to total 66.3 million pounds from an estimated 34,000 acres for harvest. Yields per acre are forecast at 2,700 pounds for Type 22; 3,000 pounds for Type 23; and 2,400 pounds for Type 35.

(Continued on Page 2)

Record Hay Acreage to Be Harvested

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 4.31 million tons, 6 percent below last year's record production. Yields are expected to average 2.10 tons per acre, down 9 percent from 2000. Harvested area is estimated at 2.05 million acres, surpassing last year's record. Harvest of this year's hay crop began on schedule in late April and has progressed at a normal pace. The majority of the crop has been cut a second time, although some producers did not get a second cutting before their fields went dormant this summer. Most growers reported good yield and quality, although many experienced some armyworm damage in their first cutting.

Apple Crop to Hold Steady

Tennessee apple growers appeared to have halted the downward trend for production in the state. Apple production is expected to remain consistent with the past two years and is forecast at 9.5 million pounds for 2001. Crop development and potential production was held in-check due to a spring frost and fire-blight damage.

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, August 1, 2001, with Comparisons

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2000	Indicated 2001	2000	Indicated 2001	2000	Indicated 2001
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,500	9,500
Corn for grain	bu.	590	570	114	122	67,260	69,540
Cotton ¹	lb.	565	605	603	643	710	810
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,000	2,050	2.30	2.10	4,600	4,305
Peaches ²	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,500	4,000
Soybeans	bu.	1,150	1,050	25.0	32.0	28,750	33,600
Tobacco, All	lb.	46.02	41.22	2,085	2,080	95,958	85,758
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.7	6.1	2,760	2,700	21,252	16,470
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.64	.50	3,125	3,000	2,000	1,500
Burley (31)	lb.	37.0	34.0	1,920	1,950	71,040	66,300
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.68	.62	2,450	2,400	1,666	1,488
Winter Wheat ²	bu.	380	330	55.0	56.0	20,900	18,480
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	10,648,700	9,615,400
Corn for grain	bu.	72,732	69,191	137.1	133.9	9,968,358	9,266,397
Cotton ¹	lb.	13,053.0	14,338.0	632	670	17,188.3	20,003.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	36,777	40,083	1.95	1.95	71,836	78,075
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,599,800	2,537,300
Soybeans	bu.	72,718	74,137	38.1	38.7	2,769,665	2,867,474
Tobacco, All	lb.	472.43	451.29	2,229	2,230	1,052,998	1,006,201
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	11.80	9.40	2,896	2,700	34,167	25,380
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	4.44	3.60	3,360	3,258	14,920	11,730
Burley (31)	lb.	185.40	174.90	1,957	2,078	362,788	363,499
One-sucker (35)	lb.	3.78	3.42	2,901	2,727	10,966	9,328
Winter Wheat	bu.	35,022	31,657	44.6	43.8	1,562,733	1,385,048

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton. ² Estimate for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

REMINDER: All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about August 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.

Tennessee Nursery Production Measured at \$124 Million

Tennessee's first Nursery Production Survey revealed that for nursery operations with sales of \$100,000 or more during 2000, the gross value of sales for nine surveyed categories totaled \$124 million. Tennessee ranked sixth in total gross sales of the country's top 17 nursery producing states selected for this first multi-state survey. Deciduous shade trees accounted for 27 percent of the total, followed by deciduous flowering trees at 22 percent, and propagation material at 14 percent.

All nursery operations with sales over \$10,000 totaled 352. Those firms with sales of \$100,000 or greater numbered 170, while those with gross sales over \$1 million totaled 36. The 352 nurseries reported production area of 1.32 billion square feet, or just over 30 thousand acres.

The nine nursery categories surveyed were: broadleaf evergreens, coniferous evergreens, deciduous shade trees, deciduous flowering trees, deciduous shrubs and other ornamentals, fruit and nut plants, Christmas trees (cut and to be cut), transplants for commercial truck crop production, and propagation material.

Nursery Operations, Area: All Operations with \$10,000 Sales, Tennessee, 2000

Gross Value of Sales	Operations
\$10,000 to \$99,999	182
\$100,000 to \$249,999	63
\$250,000 to \$499,999	41
\$500,000 to \$999,999	30
\$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999	27
\$2,000,000 to \$4,999,999	5
\$5,000,000 to \$9,999,999	4
Total	352
Production Area (1,000 Square Feet)	1,317,711

Nursery Production: All Operations with \$100,000 + Sales, Tennessee, 2000

Category	Number of Producers	Number Sold	Gross Sales	U.S. Rank	Percent of Sales Wholesale
	Number	1,000	1,000 Dollars		Percent
Broadleaf Evergreens	98	1,780	14,299	12	98
Coniferous Evergreens	95	756	10,264	11	98
Deciduous Shade Trees	126	2,622	33,917	4	99
Deciduous Flowering Trees	128	2,923	27,032	3	98
Deciduous Shrubs and Other Ornamentals	103	2,976	14,338	11	99
Fruit and Nut Plants	31	1,430	6,773	6	98
Christmas Trees	9	28	383	13	96
Propagation Material	75	¹	17,059	7	92
Total			124,065	6	

¹ This item was not asked.

Nursery Inventory: All Operations with \$100,000 + Sales, Tennessee, 2000

Category	Number on Hand January 1, 2001	Value of Inventory January 1, 2001	U.S. Rank	Percentage of Inventory Expected To Sell In:			
				1 YR	2 YR	3 YR	4+ YR
	1,000	1,000 Dollars		Percent			
Broadleaf Evergreens	3,773	27,473	11	42	26	16	16
Coniferous Evergreens	2,896	25,288	11	33	23	19	25
Deciduous Shade Trees	4,610	52,389	4	37	35	18	10
Deciduous Flowering Trees	3,433	30,450	5	41	36	15	8
Deciduous Shrubs and Other Ornamentals	3,673	20,406	9	57	23	15	5
Fruit and Nut Plants	1,110	4,889	7	50	46	2	2
Christmas Trees	78	663	13	32	23	20	25

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., July 2001 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		July	June	July	July	June	July
		2000	2001	2001	2000	2001	2001
Dollars Per Unit							
Winter Wheat	bu.	2.25	2.43	---	2.23	2.68	2.69
Corn	bu.	2.09	2.44	2.45	1.64	1.77	1.88
Cotton Lint	lb.	.446	.397	.349	.488	.404	.387
Soybeans	bu.	4.74	4.60	5.00	4.53	4.46	4.92
All hogs	cwt.	46.00	---	---	48.30	52.20	51.40
Sows	cwt.	37.00	---	---	34.80	39.90	41.50
Barrows & gilts	cwt.	47.00	---	---	49.10	52.90	52.00
All beef cattle	cwt.	68.40	71.00	68.60	67.50	73.50	70.80
Steers/heifers	cwt.	88.00	89.00	87.00	70.40	76.80	74.10
Cows	cwt.	39.00	44.00	41.00	39.20	44.70	42.80
Calves	cwt.	101.00	101.00	96.00	106.00	109.00	108.00

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Based on purchases first half of month.

Over Forty Percent Of U.S. Farms Have Internet Access

A total of 43 percent of U.S. farms now have Internet access, compared to 29 percent with Internet access in 1999. Nearly 55 percent of farms have access to a computer in 2001, compared to the 1999 level of 47 percent. Fifty percent of all U.S. farms own or lease a computer, up from 40 percent in 1999. Farms using computers for their farm business increased from 24 percent in 1999 to 29 percent in 2001. In 2001, 73 percent of U.S. farms with sales of \$100,000 and more have access to a computer, 69 percent own or lease a computer, 55 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 58 percent have Internet access.

For farms with sales between \$10,000 and \$99,999 the figures are: 53 percent have access to a computer, 47 percent own or lease a computer, 30 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 39 percent have Internet access. For farms with sales less than \$10,000, 50 percent report having computer access, 45 percent own or lease a computer, 20 percent use a computer for their farm business, and 40 percent have Internet access.

In 2001, operators with access to the Internet were asked four additional questions on their specific uses of the Internet access. The additional Internet questions referred to the purchase of agricultural inputs, conducting agricultural marketing activities, accessing National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports, and accessing other USDA reports and research information. Of the U.S. farms with Internet access, 6 percent use the Internet to purchase agricultural inputs, to conduct agricultural marketing activities and to access NASS reports while 9 percent access other USDA reports and research information.